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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/46/739)]

46/145. Regional economic integration among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the annex to which contains the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, proclaiming the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind that regional economic integration is important in expanding trade and investments, particularly in developing countries, and that regional economic integration everywhere has the potential to strengthen global economic growth, especially if accompanied by openness to the outside world,

Recalling further its resolution 45/203 of 21 December 1990, on the Trade and Development Board, in which it invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Trade and Development Board, as appropriate, to continue to follow closely and analyse developments that have a major impact on international trade relations, including economic integration and policy reform in the world economy, technological change and the growing linkage between flows of investment and trade,

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Bearing in mind decision 91/10 of 25 June 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 1/ in which it was decided that regional economic integration between developing countries should be included among the specific areas of analysis of regional programmes,

Bearing in mind also the relevant provisions of decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 2/

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/76 of 26 July 1991, which encourages interregional cooperation in order to facilitate international trade,

Reaffirming that an open multilateral trading system is essential for the promotion of economic growth and development,

Convinced of the link between regional economic integration among developing countries and the promotion of growth and development and of the need to promote more economic cooperation between the members of the international community,

Taking note of the economic policy measures adopted by the developing countries to facilitate their efficient and competitive participation in the contemporary world economy,

Recalling that regional initiatives have been agreed upon to set the process of economic integration in motion within specific time-frames and with clearly defined objectives,

Aware of the need to coordinate measures at the international level to guarantee the effective and efficient promotion of activities that encourage regional economic integration and, thus, economic integration among developing countries,

Recognizing the need to support, inter alia, the preparation of studies and implementation of measures to facilitate trade, as well as harmonization of the macroeconomic policies and legal systems of the countries concerned, and to explore the technological aspects of such industrial reconversion processes as might be economically necessary during the process of integration,

1. Points to the substantive importance of integration among developing countries, both for the international community in general and, in particular, for the strengthening of growth and socio-economic development in the developing countries;

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34), annex I.

2/ Ibid., 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29), annex I.

2. Decides that in the context of the next revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to be held in 1992, activities promoting regional economic integration among developing countries should be given special attention, and recommends that these activities be included as separate subprogrammes under the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, where appropriate, in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, taking into account the need for coordination and the avoidance of duplication;

3. Requests the regional commissions, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to contribute to the identification, preparation and implementation of specific projects to facilitate economic integration and to submit them to bilateral donors, regional development banks and financial institutions for their consideration;

4. Invites all States and regional economic integration organizations to support these initiatives;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

76th plenary meeting
17 December 1991